

Bush grants paid federal holiday

President Bush has issued an Executive Order granting Dec. 26 as a paid federal holiday.

All civilian employees at Robins will receive the holiday except those in mission essential positions.

Employees required to work the holiday will receive holiday premium pay in addition to basic pay for their regular hours of work.

Holiday work performed outside the regularly scheduled tour of duty is overtime work and will be compensated with appropriate overtime or compensatory time payment.

Employees whose basic workweek does not include Dec. 26, as a regularly scheduled workday (i.e., employees working an uncommon tour of duty or compressed work schedule) will observe the holiday on their last workday immediately before the holiday, taking into account any “in lieu of” holiday for Dec. 25.

Employees who have scheduled off for Dec. 26, and those with “use or lose” annual leave should be reminded to reschedule another day of leave to be used before the leave year ends Jan. 10.

When an employee has scheduled “use or lose” annual leave for Dec. 26, and is unable to reschedule that leave before the end of the leave year, the leave will be forfeited.

When “use or lose” leave is forfeited under those circumstances, there’s no authority that permits restoration of the leave.

Employees with “use or lose” annual leave also have the option of donating annual leave to approved leave recipients.

Employees may obtain a listing of approved leave recipients and instructions and the limitations on donating annual leave on the DPC home page.

Employees on an intermittent tour of duty are not entitled to pay for the holiday unless they actually work Dec. 26.

Employees in a nonpay status immediately before the holiday and at the beginning of the first workday after the holiday are not entitled to pay for the holiday.

Questions may be referred to your servicing Employee Relations Specialist at 926-5802 or 926-0677.

– From staff reports

Next Rev-Up issue Jan. 9

The Robins Rev-Up will not be published Dec. 26 and Jan. 2. The next issue will be Jan. 9.

C-5 repairs made in record time

By Lanorris Askew
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The C-5 torque deck team turned doubters into believers after completing repairs on its first C-5 torque deck going through program depot maintenance here Dec. 12.

The team of twelve

mechanics not only completed the repairs in house, but did so in record time.

The work on the C5’s torque deck, the primary structure responsible for holding the tail section of the aircraft together, included replacing damaged panels that had dents, punctures, fluid entrap-

ment and corrosion.

“This feat is remarkable in the fact that this repair has taken up to 49 days to complete at other facilities, but our mechanics did it in only 12 days,” said Capt. Mike Davis, C-5 Production Branch deputy section chief. “The team was able to overcome learning

curves of performing the job for the first time and complete the torque deck panel installation (quickly) with no major defects.”

George Calhoun, C-5 torque deck team leader, said he had confidence in his team from day one.

“We felt like we could do

the job and take on the additional work without impacting our ability to produce quality aircraft on time,” he said. “It also establishes us as a proven source of repair for future C-5 torque deck work.”

Because team Robins did

Please see **C-5, 2A**

A ‘tremendous experience’



Courtesy photo

U.S. officials announced the capture of Saddam Hussein during a press conference Saturday. Seen here is Maj. Mike Pierson, director of the Center Office of Public Affairs currently deployed to Iraq to support the strategic communications office of the coalition provisional authority, following the press conference.

“I attended the press conference but I was standing behind the cameras,” he said.

“It was a tremendous experience for me. There was at least one Iraqi journalist who broke down crying when they showed Saddam’s picture.

“The journalist’s family had been murdered by Saddam, and he himself had been jailed and tortured for two years. Makes me realize how much we are doing here is really helping these people.”

Center Commander Maj. Gen. Don Wetekam said that

Hussein’s capture won’t end hostilities in Iraq.

“Well this doesn’t mean the end,” he said. “It is still a monumental step forward in the war on terrorism and the effort to bring freedom to Iraq. We at Robins Air Force Base salute the military members who carried out this important operation. Well done!”

For more reactions to Hussein’s capture, see page 11A.

‘We enjoyed the moment and went back to work’

78th CS commander watches Saddam’s capture from Baghdad

By Chris Zdrakas
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Coalition forces at a joint operations center in Baghdad applauded loudly at the news of Iraqi Dictator Saddam Hussein’s capture. Then they went back to work.

Lt. Col. Unholz, commander of Robins’ 78th Communications Squadron, was watching the unfolding events with other members of his division just before Saddam was taken.

The commander, who left Robins in late November, said it was “an eventful experience that was great to be part of.”

“Everyone was in the JOC keeping a close eye on what was transpiring,” he said. “When we saw him, we thought it was fitting they found him in a hole in the ground. But mostly, we felt relief because obviously a lot of time, energy and resources went into the capture.”

Another factor - force protection - also shortened the celebration.

“Those who disliked us before the capture were letting their displeasures be known, and we took a number of mortars in the camp that evening,” Unholz said. “Nobody was hurt, but we were bounced around a little. Then large numbers of the local population were expressing their satisfaction with celebratory gunfire, which always brings



Unholz

Happy holidays from Baghdad

Two Robins Air Force Base military members deployed to Iraq have a message for those of us back home - Happy Holidays.

Lt. Col. Carl Unholz, commander of the 78th Communications Squadron; and Capt. Chris E. Haberstroh, of the 5th Combat Communications Support Squadron work together in the Combined Joint Task Force-7 C3 (Command, Control and Communications) Division of which Unholz is chief. Their wives are both named Emily.

“We receive well wishes daily from people all over the world, which is truly heart warming,” Unholz said. “We certainly miss our families, the members of our squadrons, and all the other wonderful people at Robins Air Force Base.”

“We wish you a joyous holiday season for all of you and your families.”

– Chris Zdrakas

risks of random projectiles.”

He said the fear factor is “all about your perspective ... I’ve been in hostile areas before, and feel pretty safe here. Last night, we had some folks sleeping in helmets and flack vests though.”

Please see **WORK, 2A**

eLog21 takes AF logistics into the future

By Lanorris Askew
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Grover Dunn, Innovations and Transformation director at the Pentagon, visited Robins last week to brief senior leaders and product directorate representatives on Air Force transformation efforts through a new campaign called Expeditionary Logistics for the 21st Century - or eLog21.

The overall eLog21 campaign for change is aimed at updating the way logistics processes work, and according to Danny Singleton, Logistics Management Directorate Materiel Management Division chief here, Dunn’s message was clear.

“Air Force logistics must transform to support the way

we now fight,” he said. “Significant change is required if we are to go to the next level in terms of operational performance with no cost growth.”

Singleton said Robins has a significant role in this type of operation.

“(The Center) is very active in all aspects of the overall Air Force transformation strategy,” said Singleton. “ELog21 will represent the most profound change to the Air Force logistics

Please see **ELOG21, 2A**



Dunn



Courtesy photo

Maj. Ellen Adams stands beside the gingerbread house she spent months constructing for a competition in North Carolina.

Gingerbread dreams danced in her head

By Lanorris Askew
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Maj. Ellen Adams loves to cook and when the opportunity arose for her to showcase her artistic side in a culinary fashion, she jumped at the chance.

The C-130 Contracting Division chief, said while on a trip last year to North Carolina to see the Famous Biltmore Hotel’s Christmas décor she noticed some delectable decorations in the hotel where she was staying.

“The Grove Park Inn had just finished the 2002 National Gingerbread House competition and the entries were still on display,” she

What to know

The competition pieces will be on display at the Grove Park Inn in Ashville, N.C., through Jan. 9. Highlights from the competition will be broadcast on the Food Network Sunday at 5 p.m. and Wednesday at 10 p.m.

said. “I said ‘I can do that.’”

With visions of gingerbread dancing in her head, Adams returned home with hopes of entering the next year’s contest and possibly winning the top prize of \$1,000 and an appearance on Good Morning America.

Please see **DREAMS, 2A**

TSP catch-up contributions can still be made

Thrift Savings Plan participants can now make catch-up contributions to their accounts beginning in or after the year in which they turn age 50. Catch-up contributions are supplemental tax-deferred contributions, which are in addition to regular TSP contributions. These supplemental contributions can be made through payroll deduction by participants who would like to make contributions above the maximum amount they

could otherwise make to the TSP. Any catch-up elections made on or after Nov. 30 will be for 2004, and the new maximum contribution limit is \$3,000. Employees can make their catch-up contribution elections via the BEST phone system at 1-800-997-2378 or www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/best/Catch-Up.htm.Hearing impaired employees may reach a counselor at 1-800-382-0893.

TSP Catch-up contribution elections made Nov. 30 through Saturday were effective Sunday, with the first deduction occurring Jan. 2. Enrollments submitted on or after Sunday will be effective at the beginning of the next pay period. BEST anticipates loading an enhancement to the TSP Catch-up module for both the Web and phone automated systems. Until this change is loaded, employees using the auto-

ated phone system to make their election will hear “During 2003 the maximum annual amount is \$3,000.” What they should hear is “During 2004 the maximum annual amount is \$3,000.” When using Web system, click the “Transactions” icon, scroll down to the TSP catch-up contributions transaction block, and click the “Change” button. On the next screen, from the drop down menu, select “Change” if

currently contributing or “New Enrollment” if not currently contributing. There are no agency or service matching contributions on catch-up contributions. You can make your election at any time. Unlike regular TSP contributions, there is no open season associated with catch-up contributions. For more information, go to www.tsp.gov.

ELOG21

Continued from 1A

community in decades. Our processes, systems and skills must conform to match our new business practices. It’s time for change.” He said current logistics systems and processes were built around Cold War philosophies and are not reactive enough (without substantial investments in people and dollars) to fully support a global expeditionary doctrine. “Warner Robins will be a part of this effort - in fact our efforts have already begun,” he said. “We have representatives on most Air Force

Transformation efforts and have already established commodity council pathfinders for purchasing and supply chain management, and are in the process of standing up two depot maintenance trailblazers, one for F-15 Program Depot Maintenance and one in F-15 Avionics. We are also prototyping serial number tracking and advanced planning and scheduling system for supply chain management in avionics.” Singleton said after sitting through the briefing he took away new insight. “We are on a transformation journey that will enable the Air Force to meet the demands of future conflicts and wars,” he said.

DREAMS

Continued from 1A

Six months later, when applications were due, Adams sent hers hoping to be one of those chosen to compete. “They only choose 225 people to participate in the competition and 75 of them are children,” she said. A few weeks later she learned she had made the cut. “It started out as just a fun project, but it turned into an obsession,” she said. For the next few months Adams worked tirelessly to get the gingerbread house finished. “I started actually baking the first week of October and worked every night from seven to nine for the entire

month,” she said. “After that I worked on it on weekends and whenever I had spare time.” On Nov. 9 with her creation tucked safely in the back seat of her Jeep, she made the long drive back to Asheville to be judged. Her creation – a two-foot high, 60-pound white Victorian – didn’t win any prizes, but proved she could do anything she put her mind to. However, Adams said she has reservations about a repeat performance. “Ask me again in April,” she said. “Baking is a hobby of mine and something I will pursue after my retirement in four years, but this was a lot of hard work.” After her retirement, Adams plans use her GI Bill to attend a culinary school.

C-5

Continued from 1A

the work, the aircraft was able to be returned to the war fighter in a complete state after PDM. Without the torque shelves being completed, the aircraft wouldn’t be able to carry its full capacity, Calhoun said. There are nine torque deck shelf panels on each C-5, the team made required repairs on panels seven, eight and nine. “The guys were really able

to sail through this,” said Calhoun. “A lot of people had their doubts because of the constraints and so forth, but we prevailed and will get this jet back to its squadron in 100 percent combat ready mission status.” For now, the mechanics will be the designated team to work torque decks. More mechanics will be added as the number of torque deck replacements increases. “We hope to implement this within our PDM cycle itself,” said Calhoun.

WORK

Continued from 1A

Unholz, 42, a Detroit native, is assigned to Combined Joint Task Force-7 as chief of the C3 Operations Directorate’s Information Management Division - an organization, an information management organization supporting the commanding general for planning and oversight of military theater operations. With Saddam’s capture, he said, his organization likely will shift some of the resources involved in the search to security and the rebuilding of Iraq. He lives in conditions typical of a deployed site, but the “office” is a former palace. “There are grandiose ceilings, chandeliers and lots of marble,” he said. “Other than that, we packed in desks and computers and are working like a normal headquarters. We stuffed in whatever was needed to get the job done.” Living conditions are like those of other deployed sites: “We primarily sleep in tents like we did at PSAB years ago, but the Iraqi winter generates

a lot more mud, creating conditions more synonymous with Sarajevo at times. We get three hots a day and usually a hot shower, so all the essentials are there.” (PSAB is Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia). “Gunfire and mortars are common. However, only occasionally do we feel and not just hear the explosions at the headquarters,” Unholz said. “It’s those brave soldiers on patrol, performing security and strapping on choppers that deserve the most accolades.” His complex near Baghdad Airport has a limited gym; a small post exchange, a building the coalition converted; and “once in a while they show a movie.” He said that the few minutes before sleep are his time, and he spends them reading with headphones on and looking at pictures of his family. Unholz and his wife, Kathy, are parents of 9-year-old Emily. Kathy Unholz is a teacher at his daughter’s school. “I miss them,” he said. “I have done a few of these (deployments) and missed a lot of my daughter’s growing up. I try to stay as connected as I can by calling or e-mailing every other day.” He had some advice for military

members fearing deployment because they have heard the stories of explosions and difficult living conditions. “I try to tell the young folks back there, particularly in the communications squadron, they need to volunteer and step forward for these opportunities,” he said. He offered four reasons. Such deployments: ■ Give them a chance to put to rest fears brought on by hearing others talk about it. ■ Allow them to see the mission done first-hand, opening their eyes to how much they can learn and accomplish in a short time. ■ Help them make smart decisions about themselves and their own careers. ■ Inspire a sense of pride. When they come back home, they will be proud of themselves and what they have been able to accomplish. He had one other observation about deployment: “Being away brings to the forefront the importance of family, relationships, and friendships in your life. It even can be a growing experience for you personally and in those relationships. It certainly makes coming home a meaningful event to look forward to.”



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp
Michael Moore, left, and Jay Peacock show off the coins their team received.

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Robins Elementary School children attend Nutcracker performance

By Holly J. Logan
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A recent performance by the Nutcracker of Middle Georgia gave some Robins Elementary School children a memory they won't soon forget.

The cast gave more than 200 third- through sixth-graders from Robins Elementary School and seven other Bibb and Houston county schools a chance to see the ballet performed for free Dec. 10 at the Grand Opera House in Macon.

Sheila Clopton, music instructor and choral director at Robins Elementary School, said the performance afforded the kids an experience they might not have otherwise had.

"This was a special gift to the kids of our military troops, especially for those whose parents are deployed right now," she said. "They (Nutcracker of Middle Georgia) wanted to extend their appreciation for the sacrifice our military families make."

Clopton said Robins Elementary School children who attended the performance studied the ballet's history weeks in advance.

"It was a great learning experience for them," she said.

From performance preparations to the final curtain call, the children were delighted by images of the



U.S. Air Force photo by Sheila Clopton
Robins Elementary School students attend a performance of the Nutcracker at the Grand Opera House in Macon.

Nutcracker and dancing sugarplum fairies throughout the nearly two-hour ballet.

Kyle Mize, a sixth-grader at Robins Elementary School, said he and his brother, Tyler Mize, a third-grader, enjoyed the balet, and Christmas will be extra special because their father, Master Sgt. Charlie Mize with the JSTARS, will be home this year.

"It's really good because they're appreciating our parents being over there fighting for our country," he said. "I think it's nice they did this for us. The last two years, (our father) has missed Christmas, and it has been hard not having him

there for us."

Sarah Millican, a fifth-grader at Robins Elementary School who attended the ballet, said seeing the "dancers" helped to ease her worries.

"My favorite part was when all the dancers came out and danced and bowed," she said. "You know, the Nutcracker got my mind off of the war. It's so hard having our parents gone."

What to know

The Nutcracker of Middle Georgia has performed free ballets for area school children for more than 10 years, to promote cultural education and allow children to see the well-known ballet. Grant monies from the Community Foundation of Central Georgia, Target Stores, India Benton Lesser Foundation, Macon Arts, Macon Civic Club and Macon Power funded the performance. No federal endorsement is implied.

security
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LES hardcopies no longer available after new year

Office of WR-ALC/FM
Comptroller

HQ AFMC has issued policy that effective Jan. 2, hard-copy Leave and Earning Statements will no longer be sent to military members.

In order to get a copy of an LES, members must now use the myPay system.

There was a deadline of Dec. 1 for all military members on station to receive their PINs.

Robins currently is at 75 percent, which is highest in the command, but still not 100 percent.

In order to accommodate our military members, Finance Customer Service is offering to visit all squadrons, upon request, and set up a PIN assignment station.

Orderly rooms need to call and set up an appointment, and a representative will arrive at the designated time to issue PINs to all in the squadron.

The point of contact for

this service is Annette Hankins, Customer Service branch chief, at 926-3777.

Additionally, Customer Service is undergoing renovations to their phone lines in order to service the customer better.

In the meantime, there will be periods when no service is available while the lines are being rerouted. Please bear with us through this time and know that it will serve to provide a better service to our customers in the long run.

If there are any problems, contact Capt. Tynisa Williams, deputy financial services officer, at 926-4462.

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One Robins NCO selected for OTS this cycle

By Lanorris Askew
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Many are called, but the chosen are few, and no one knows that better than Staff Sgt. Eric Smith. The 25-year-old Michigan native recently found out he was Robins' lone selectee in a pool of nine to attend Officer Training School.

The Public Affairs Specialist, who stepped into the blue more than four years ago, said he was excited and surprised to hear the good news because he had been told there would be a very low acceptance rate.

"I was very happy when I found out I was selected," he said. "I realized that I wanted to get my commission about two years ago and have been looking forward to this for a while now. It's always nice when a goal that you set for yourself begins to materialize."

Holding a Bachelor of Science degree in Information Technology, Smith said he's unsure what career field he has been chosen for, although

What to know

Air Force Recruiting Service officials considered 515 applications and selected 157 as part of Officer Training School Selection Board 0402, which met at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas Nov. 17 to 21, for a 30-percent selection rate. Eighty-four of those selectees were enlisted. The United States Air Force Officer Training School is located at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., and provides a 12-week basic officer training course programmed to commission 1,000 officers annually. Additionally, OTS conducts a 4-week commissioned officer training program for more than 1,500 new judge advocates, chaplains and medical officers each year.

it will probably lie in communications.

"In general, my career goals are to continually learn and apply those skills in whatever I do. I think I'm on track."

Smith said the main reason he joined the Air Force was to help decide on a

career path. The Air Force delivered - in spades.

"Once I started going back to school, I chose the IT degree program because I knew it would make me more marketable," he said. "I was very fortunate to realize once I started taking classes that it was the right decision."

Smith said the application process was a long one.

"Once you start getting close to your degree completion, you're able to send in your application," he said. "The base education office staff was very helpful answering my numerous questions. They also helped me put my application package together and sent it in."

The next step for Smith is to wait.

"After receiving my class date, I will attend Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama," he said. "This is a 12-week school, and after I complete OTS, I'll get an assignment to a new duty station."

As part of the selection process, board members

review both objective and subjective factors. Objectively, board members consider each applicant's academic discipline, grade-point average and Air Force Officer Qualifying Test scores. Subjectively, they evaluate work experience, accomplishments, adaptability, character, leadership ability, potential for future growth and other recommendations. For active duty enlisted applicants, performance reports and commander's recommendations are also evaluated.

Smith said leaving his Robins family won't be easy.

"Leaving the friends that you've made is always the hardest part about moving somewhere else," he said.

One of those friends is Judith Smith, Public Affairs Office deputy director.

"I think I was as happy as he was to receive the news," she said.

The staff sergeant has spent



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Staff Sgt. Eric Smith, a public affairs specialist here, has been selected to attend Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. four years in the Public Affairs office, and she said she has watched him grow up.

"Eric has worked in every division in the PA office," she said. "He started out as a writer for the Rev up then moved on to the media division and for the past two years he has worked in Community relations all while going to school at night."

Smith has high hopes for the sergeant.

"I hope he stays in the PA career field," she said. "I think he will make an excellent officer. Maybe someday he'll come back, and I'll be working for him."

Policy bans camera cell phones in classified areas

By Holly J. Logan
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While new cell phone technology may enhance communication, a revised Air Force policy will help ensure it doesn't jeopardize security.

The new policy, effective Dec. 4, prohibits the use or possession of cell phones with integral digital camera capability in any area where classified items are kept or processed.

Jane Guidicini, certified TEMPEST technical authority at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., said even though policy already states cameras are prohibited in many Air Force installation areas, the new revision takes security a step further.

"We realized (some of) the new cell phones out there had cameras," she said. "As new items come into the workplace, we need to make sure they don't inadvertently cause a security risk."

The National Security Agency advises the

new cellular phone technology poses an "unacceptable" security risk as determined by the Office of Homeland Security.

Bob Coleman, computer security specialist with the 78th Communication Squadron's Network Security Office here, said ensuring security is a high priority in the ever-changing world.

"As new technology continues to proliferate (our society), we will all have to remain vigilant in ensuring we follow security policies to protect our national interests," he said.

Individuals with the phones will be denied access to areas processing classified information. Anyone possessing the phones within classified areas or exiting these areas will have the phone confiscated and delivered to 78th Security Forces for disposition.

Signs will be posted concerning the policy, and random inspections could be conducted.

For more information regarding this policy and its implementation, contact 78th Security Forces Squadron at 926-2118.

**Announcement for Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) Mediator (Collateral Duty Assignment)
2 Positions - WR-ALC/CCD**

Announcement Number: ADR-2-03
Opening Date: 19 Dec 03
Closing Date: 05 Jan 04

Purpose of Announcement: The purpose of this announcement is to provide interested employees an opportunity to apply for the WR-ALC ADR Mediator appointment as a collateral duty assignment.

Work Schedule: The duties of these positions should constitute no more than 20 percent of the assigned duties of the incumbent. Employee is expected to perform these duties in addition to regularly assigned duties and responsibilities. Employee is expected to work in the CCD one day a week.

Major Roles and Responsibilities: Incumbent will be assigned as collateral duty as an ADR Mediator, which may involve some counseling of EEO complaints. Will receive work assignments from the EE Manager because of the nature of the function, and also with the Lead ADR Specialist. Provides policy, procedural, and assistance concerning ADR to all organizations within WR-ALC as well as tenant organizations utilizing current ADR processes procedures. Analyzes program information such as trends in mediation of complaints, mediation timelines, appropriateness of complaints for the program, as well as legal and regulatory guidelines. Draft, review and revises ADR policy papers, memorandums as required by the EE Manager. Briefs all levels of WR-ALC management and other upper level tenant organizations management regarding ADR. Discussion of complaints with complainant, managers and supervisors with supervision by the EE Manager. Mediates and studies ADR cases impartially and objectively; advises employee of rights and procedures. Answers questions and may discuss complaints with managers and supervisors as well as employee's associates under certain circumstances. Prepares mediation agreement and settlement agreements with review by EE Manager. ADR Mediator work is performed under general administrative supervision by EE Manager, who assigns cases to mediate on regulatory aspects of work and may assist in resolving unusually different cases if requested. Normally works independently.

Eligibility: Assignment is open to all permanent career or career-conditional Air Force employees assigned to Robins AFB at the GS-11 or GS-12 grade level.

How to Apply: Submit letter stating interest to 78 MSG/DPCSB Attn: Beverly McBride or an email to beverly.mcbride@robins.af.mil. Include your name, organization symbol and office telephone extension. Questions can be directed to Beverly McBride at 926-3805 ext 142. Letter or email must be received by COB 5 Jan 2004. Concurrence at the Directorate/Staff Office level with the letter of application or email at the time of application is required to be considered.

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116th ACW spreads spirit of season to many

By Airman 1st Class Tim Beckham
116th Air Control Wing Public Affairs

Members of the 116th Air Control Wing have been a driving force in helping those less fortunate have a happy holiday. Between food and gift drives, Christmas parties and tree lighting ceremonies, the JSTARS family has worked hard to give everyone the feeling of being home for the holidays.

To kick things off the Army Spouse's Group got in the spirit of giving by delivering candy to the consumers who work at the Happy Hour Developmentally Challenged Service Center in Warner Robins Dec. 4.

A week later, wing members joined near Building 2078 for the annual Outback Tree Lighting ceremony Dec. 12.

During the December unit training assembly weekend, Dec. 13-14, the wing prepared to play Santa to 59 local area families, including 147 children, providing food, clothing and gifts that surpassed last year's totals. Volunteers worked long hours wrapping gifts and packaging thousands of non-perishable food items.

The Family-2-Family holiday fund drive collected more than 10,040 food items and more than \$3,330 to be used to help less fortunate families during the holiday season.

"The project has evolved over the years from providing a hot meal and toys to needy families to assisting multiple families including military members," said Maj. Gwendolyn Taylor, 116th Logistics Readiness Flight commander and director of the annual project. "Its focus is to assist families with basic living necessities like clothing, coats, shoes, under garments, and boxes of non-perishable food. Toys are still a part of the project to ensure the children have something on Christmas morning."

In addition, members of the 116th Operations Support Squadron donated presents to about 30 children and staff members of The Methodist Home for Children and Youth during a holiday party Dec. 13. Volunteers served hamburgers, hotdogs, cookies, cakes, chips, and other refreshments for lunch. The Methodist Home provides preventive services and quality care to children.

"The goal is to provide these children with an opportunity to spend time with people who care," said 1st Lt. Linda Graham, 116th OSS wing mission development and coordinator of the Methodist Home event. "The intent is showing them we care and to give them the attention and approval they



U.S. Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. Ada Thompson
Above, Dawn Gomillion, center, from the Army Spouse's Group, gives out candy to consumers at the Happy Hour Developmentally Challenged Service Center in Warner Robins Dec. 4. Right, Sharon Buscher, left, from the Army Spouse's Group, greets Karen Carpenter.



crave."

Dozens of JSTARS children attended a Christmas party Sunday in the multi-purpose hangar complete with games, crafts and a visit from Santa.

"The goal of this event (children's Christmas party) is to show our appreciation for the children in our 116th ACW military family," said Debbie Riebling, children's Christmas party coordinator.

There were crafts, games, a

moonwalk, a giant slide, a jousting ring, a movie on the JSTARS plane, and a visit from Santa.

The wing's good will effort will also be extended to all military members today at the annual Christmas party in the multi-purpose hangar.

The wing's efforts are just another example of how the holiday season is a time of giving and helping those who are less fortunate.

"The holiday season is a time of

reflection and thanks for the many blessings bestowed upon us and our great country," said Col. Mark Hall, 116th ACW vice commander. "The 116th family has always stepped up to the plate and hit a home run, whether in time of war or in times of great need for those less fortunate than ourselves."

"May we never forget the reason for the season."

Med Group to give flu vaccine to priority groups through Dec. 31

By Chris Zdrakas
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The 78th Medical Group had 2,700 doses of flu vaccine available as of Tuesday and will administer the vaccine to priority groups classified in the high-risk population through Dec. 31. Vaccine that's left after Dec. 31 will be offered to those in the low-risk category.

Lt. Col. Beverly J. Woods, commander of the Medical Group's Public Health Flight, said Robins ordered 12,000 doses this year - 1,000 more than in previous years - and administered nearly 9,400 doses to active-duty military members, civilians and beneficiaries considered high risk. Public Health will employ DoD guidance on vaccine priority groups. High priority

groups are:

- Military members, including active-duty, Air Reserve Command and recruit populations
- People at high risk for complications from flu to include children six to 23 months, adults 65 or over, pregnant women with more than 14 weeks gestation and people two years old and older who have underlying chronic medical conditions (asthma, diabetes and heart, kidney, blood or immuno-compromising disorders)
- Health care workers performing direct patient care and household contacts of high risk persons

Anyone with questions about vaccinations should call Public Health Flight at 327-7613 or Immunization Clinic at 327-7921.

Everyone loves a parade



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp



Top, Maj. Gen. Don Wetekam, Center commander, waves to parade goers at the 45th annual Warner Robins Christmas Parade Dec. 6. Above, Alexis, 3, and Sierra Hamilton, 4, wave flags. Left, Robins' Honor Guard carry the colors during the parade. Santa Claus made an appearance, along with 170 other parade entries and four county high school bands. The Shriners led the parade, followed by marching bands, beauty queens, church groups and rope jumpers all making their way down Watson Boulevard.

A tribute to the troops



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Left, Patty Peterman, chief, Traffic Management Flight, and Jo Ann Kasel, flight assistant, stand by their winning Christmas decorated door at the 78th Traffic Management Flight, Building 914. They were awarded a trophy Dec. 5 at the 78th Air Base Wing Christmas Party. The door contrasts the usual decorated Christmas tree people have at home to what the deployed troops will have. The display includes a palm tree surrounded by photographs of deployments. "It's a tribute to the troops and what we do," Kasel said, "We hope people will look at the pictures and realize this is for real."

Heart savers



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Col. Tom Smoot, 78th Air Base Wing commander, presents coins to Staff Sgt. G.K. Sterling, Senior Airman Randolph Duprey and Senior Airman Edward Rorie, fitness specialists and reservists from Dover, Delaware. They were given coins in appreciation for their attempts to save a man who had a heart attack at the fitness center.

Holiday gate hours

Due to the upcoming holiday season, the following gate hours will apply:

Gates 2 (Main Gate) and 14 (Russell Parkway) will be open Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1-2. Gate 2 will be open 24 hours and Gate 14 will be open from 5 a.m. - 1 a.m. All other gates will be closed on these days.

Visitor passes will be issued at Gate 2 when the Visitor Center is closed. Gate 2 may be contacted at 926-4208.

Warm wishes

Senior Airman Chaunte Shepherd
653rd CLSS supply specialist

"My holiday wish is that people focus on what truly matters in the spirit like loving each other and taking care of family."



Shepherd

Ryan Rowell
Air Link communications sales representative for

"All I want for Christmas are tickets to the Lakers game March 2nd."



Rowell

James Oliver
GNC store manager

"I guess I want a new car for Christmas, a Honda."



Oliver

Vera Keasley
Family Child Care coordinator

"My Christmas wish is for world peace."



Keasley

Tech. Sgt. Blondina Rood
JSTARS parachute shop

"All I want for Christmas is for people to give more generously to those in need over the holidays and that includes the animal shelters."



Rood



AUGUSTA, Maine – A Christmas wreath that is 150 feet across and 496 feet around sits outside the Maine National Guard headquarters here, in tribute to servicemembers engaged in the war against terrorism.

‘Twas the night before Christmas,

they lived all alone,
in a one bedroom house made of
plaster and stone.

I had come down the chimney
with presents to give,
and to see just who
in this home did live.

I looked all about,
a strange sight I did see,
no tinsel, no presents,
not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle,
just boots filled with sand,
on the wall hung pictures
of far distant lands.

With medals and badges,
awards of all kinds,
a sober thought
came through my mind.

For this house was different,
it was dark and dreary,
I found the home of a soldier,

once I could see clearly.
The soldier lay sleeping,
silent, alone,
curled up on the floor
in this one bedroom home.

The face was so gentle,
the room in such disorder,
not how I pictured
a United States soldier.

Was this the hero
of whom I’d just read?
Curled up on a poncho,
the floor for a bed?

I realized the families
that I saw this night,
owed their lives to these soldiers
who were willing to fight.

Soon round the world,
the children would play,
and grownups would celebrate
a bright Christmas day.

They all enjoyed freedom

each month of the year,
because of the soldiers,
like the one lying here.

I couldn’t help wonder
how many lay alone,
on a cold Christmas Eve
in a land far from home.

The very thought
brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees
and started to cry.

The soldier awakened
and I heard a rough voice,
“Santa don’t cry,
this life is my choice;

I fight for freedom,
I don’t ask for more,
my life is my God,
my country, my corps.”

The soldier rolled over
and drifted to sleep,
I couldn’t control it,

I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours,
so silent and still
and we both shivered
from the cold night’s chill.

I didn’t want to leave
on that cold, dark, night,
this guardian of honor
so willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over,
with a voice soft and pure,
whispered, “carry on Santa,
it’s Christmas day, all is secure.”

One look at my watch,
and I knew he was right.
“Merry Christmas my friend,
and to all a good night,”

U.S. Army photo by Master Sgt. Angela Blevins

A good time for reflection

By Maj. Gen. Don Wetekam
Center commander

The holiday season and year’s end is always a good time for reflection. This year in particular, I am struck by the tremendous amount of change and huge challenges we’ve faced in the past twelve months.



Wetekam

In some cases we may have thought those obstacles were impossible to overcome, but we did as a team. Each and every one of you is a valued member of Team Robins. Your skill and dedication are the cornerstones on which this base is built. Your efforts are enabling Robins to be recognized as a world-class Air Logistics Center and first-class installation. But more importantly, it is that same skill and dedication that will ultimately determine whether our Air Force and our great nation will succeed or not. As we look forward to this holiday season, we all should take some time to reflect on the many blessings we’ve been given. Cherish the time you spend with family and friends. And please keep our fallen comrades, deployed troops and their families in your thoughts and prayers. To all of them and to all of you, thank you for the contributions and the sacrifices this past year in keeping our great nation safe and free. Sheri and I wish each of you a happy, healthy and peaceful holiday season. May God bless you.

Air Force leaders send holiday message to armed forces

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The following is a holiday message from Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper: “During this holiday season, Americans have placed their hopes for peace with those who have answered the call to secure freedom: the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines of our nation’s armed forces. “Indeed, there is no mission more vital and no cause more noble than to be a defender of freedom, particularly when the values we cherish are under attack and when our citizens are going into harm’s way. “We know this has been a challenging year, as we remain engaged on several fronts supporting the Global War on Terrorism. Over the past year, we have traveled to many places just to look you in the eye and to offer our thanks for what you’re doing for the Air Force and for America. No matter where we go we’re always amazed with your talent, dedication and professionalism. “Your service has been stellar. You are why we have the best air and space force the world has ever known. “We are also humbled by the sacrifices made by your families as you work long hours or deploy far from home. Our families are the source of support that enables us to serve with pride and enthusiasm and defend the democratic ideals of our great country. During this special season, our thoughts and prayers will be with them. “Americans are grateful for your selfless service. You have earned their trust and support through your courage, bravery and sacrifice. And, simply put, we are honored to serve with you. “It is our hope that you will have a joyous holiday season and a safe and prosperous new year.”



Roche Jumper

Action Line is an open door program for Robins Air Force Base personnel to ask questions, make suggestions or give kudos to make Robins a better place to work and live.

Please remember that the most efficient and effective way to resolve a problem or complaint is to directly contact the organization responsible. This gives the organization a chance to help you, as well as a chance to improve their processes.

To contact the Action Line, call 926-2886 day or night, or for quickest response e-mail to one of the

Col. Tom Smoot
Commander,
78th Air Base Wing

Commander’s Action Line

Maj. Gen. Don Wetekam
Commander,
Warner Robins Air Logistics Center

Line from the Global Address List. If sending from a commercial e-mail account (AOL, AT+T, CompuServe, Earthlink, etc.), use action.line@robins.af.mil. Readers can also access Action Line by visiting the Robins AFB homepage at https://wwwmil.robins.af.mil/actionline.htm. Please include your name and a way of reaching you so we can provide a direct response. Action Line items of general interest to the Robins community will be printed in the Rev-Up. Anonymous Action Lines will not be processed.

Security Forces.....327-3445
Services Division.....926-5491
EEO Office.....926-2131
Employee Relations...926-5802
Military Pay.....926-3777
IDEA.....926-2536
Base hospital.....327-7850
Civil engineering.....926-5657
Public Affairs.....926-2137
Safety Office.....926-6271
Fraud, Waste and Abuse hotline.....926-2393
Housing Office.....926-3776

Can Robins get prescription refills by phone system?

Langley Air Force Base, Va., has a system to refill prescriptions by phone. There was also a space by the BX where refills could be picked up, and it was primarily manned by volunteers. Any chance a phone refill system could be implemented at Robins?

Col. Smoot replies: Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this high interest question. The Robins Pharmacy has used a “bank teller” concept for refills for several years. This method has provided the following advantages over a

- phone-in refill service:
- Problems with prescription refills can be worked with the patient immediately
 - Possibilities of errors are lessened with a one-on-one encounter
 - Long lines for refill pick up are avoided
 - Large storage areas for called-in prescriptions are avoided
 - A true active duty priority can be provided with this method
 - Waiting times can be controlled during minimum manning situations
- Our method has served us well through the years. The Robins Pharmacy has consistently maintained one of the low-

est patient waiting times and error rates in the Air Force. Additionally, the Robins Pharmacy offers a refill service through the 78th Medical Group Web site which can be accessed by military computers. Recently, the entire system of prescription processing has changed with the change to PharmAssist. PharmAssist is an Air Force mandated system, which is not intended to reduce waiting times, but rather decrease the possibility of error. Changes in the way our Pharmacy does business are expected, including the possible addition of a phone-in refill service. Waiting times during the installation of the new system are expected to reach as much as two hours. Detailed information will be provided to patients as the new changes are implemented.

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Entrenched



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Rob Wieland
Maj. Jeffrey Holifield, front, and Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Fike help dig out a ditch before fiber optic and copper cable is buried at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq. The 506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron has installed more than 45,000 feet of cable to 55 facilities on base to support telephone and computer network communications for deployed forces. Holifield is the 506th ECS commander and Fike is the squadron's superintendent. Both are deployed from the 51st Combat Communications Squadron, here.

Airmen react to Hussein’s capture

By Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Williams
506th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

KIRKUK AIR BASE, Iraq (AFPN) – There was cautious enthusiasm here the afternoon of Dec. 14 when rumors began floating that Saddam Hussein, the Ace of Spades in the “55 Most Wanted” deck of cards, might have been captured.

For most people, the sound of gunfire outside the perimeter gate was nothing out of the ordinary, as small arms fire happens here on a regular basis. This; however, would turn out to be anything but an ordinary occurrence.

Senior Airman Heather Gondek, of the 506th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron, woke up when she heard the celebratory gunfire, but said she thought it was just another firefight.

“I thought, ‘Here comes an alarm red,’” she said. “And then I woke up and heard the giant voice tell us to put on the flak vest and helmet. Then someone else came in and told us that we may have caught Saddam. I was excited. I thought it was really cool that we finally got him.”

Chaplain (Maj.) Pete Lambert, a catholic chaplain, was in the middle of Mass with 20 people when he heard the gunfire.

“All of a sudden we heard all these gunshots going off. It got so intense that some (people) got up and ran out to see what was going on,” Lambert said. “It must have been about 11:45 a.m. We just continued Mass. At the end of Mass. the group commander announced it was celebratory (gun) fire because there were rumors around town that Saddam Hussein had been captured.

“I was very happy, but cautious because so far it was only (a) rumor,” he said. “I checked the Internet, and there was nothing there. Maybe half an hour after that, they talked about the possibility he had been captured. Later, I went down to the medical tent and there was (a) press conference with the general and the pictures of Saddam. It feels good.”

Reactions from 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron airmen were similar.

“I’m glad they captured Saddam Hussein,” said Airman Ronald Beltran, of the 506th ESFS. “At first, I didn’t think it was true, but I’m glad we got him. I hope we go home soon, but if we don’t, we’ll finish and complete our mission.”

“As soon as the word came out that he had actually been captured, I went over and called my wife,” said Staff Sgt. Raymond Nesbitt, also of the 506th ESFS. “She had just gotten to work. I told her and she just started screaming with excitement. She told all the people in her office, and they couldn’t believe it. They were all excited.”

Nesbitt was patrolling one of the base-defense sectors when he first heard the celebratory gunfire.

“I called my (17-year-old daughter and 12-year-old son), who were at home, and they were all excited. They were watching (television) and couldn’t believe they were actually sitting down watching history take place. They see a light at the end of the tunnel, just like the rest of us. It’s a great Christmas present,” Nesbitt said.

“I was skeptical at first until I heard the confirmation on the news,” said Airman 1st Class Nicholas Tardiff, a bus driver for the 506th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron. “Then I was pretty happy about it – extremely happy about it, actually.”

Airman 1st Class Amber Taden, of the 506th Expeditionary Services Squadron, said she saw a couple of bullets from the celebratory fire land near her.

“I was walking by one of the bunkers and heard a round hit the bunker. I knew I needed to get my flak vest and helmet. I came back, and we just heard the ‘dink’ of an AK-47 round that we found on the floor of the recreation center,” Taden said.

Senior Airman Nicoal Hunter, of the 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, was working on the airfield when she said she heard the small-arms fire. She said her viewpoint is less about Saddam and more about the importance of the event.

“I’m just enjoying the moment right now,” she said. “Being a young airman



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey W. Sapp
KIRKUK AIR BASE, Iraq – Senior Master Sgt. Eugene LaDoucer watches as Lt. Gen. Richardo Sanchez conducts a press conference. Sanchez announced the capture of Saddam Hussein on Dec. 14. LaDoucer is assigned to the 506th Air Expeditionary Group public affairs here.

in the Air Force, when stuff like this happens, it puts it in perspective of what’s really going on in the world. To be honest, I’m kind of happy because I joined up to serve my country. Right now I’m happy I can tell my family that I was in Iraq at this point of time in history.”

“The long-term consequence (for the base) will be good,” said Col. Dan Peabody, 506th Air Expeditionary Group commander. “I expect some short-term backlash to it. Hopefully, after a week or so even that will dissipate. The hope is that it will rapidly lead to the collapse of what resistance there is out there without any indication of a formal leader continuing (the fight).

“Even though we may not have had a direct role, we certainly have contributed significantly to the ongoing activities that led to what happened. I’m very proud of everyone here and all that they contributed,” he said.

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